Survey on quality of medicines

†649. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a survey in the country, ten per cent medicines are of inferior quality;

(b) if not, what is Government's estimate in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to constant increase in the business of inferior quality and spurious medicines, medical system is getting adversely affected; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The prescribed quality norms for drugs are based on various parameters. Failure or deviation from any of the parameter may result in declaration of the drug as "Not of Standard Quality".

As per information available from State Drug Control Organization 8.9%, 8.63% and 8.56% of samples were reported as sub standard/inferior quality during the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

(c) & (d) No such specific reports are available with Government indicating increase in the business of inferior quality and spurious medicines and medical system getting adversely affected due to it.

Chances for bird flu in India

650. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is every chance of bird flu in the country;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.